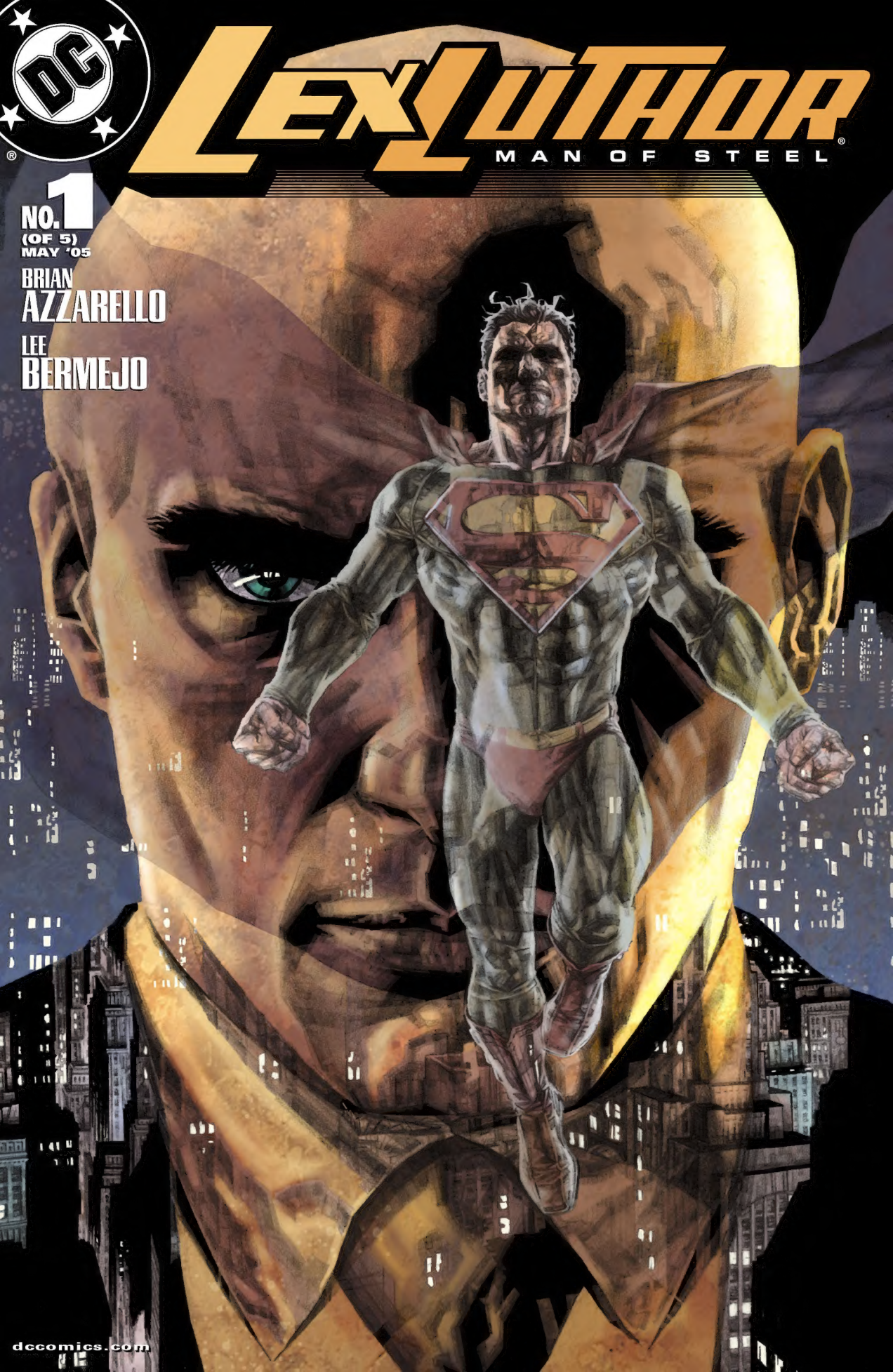
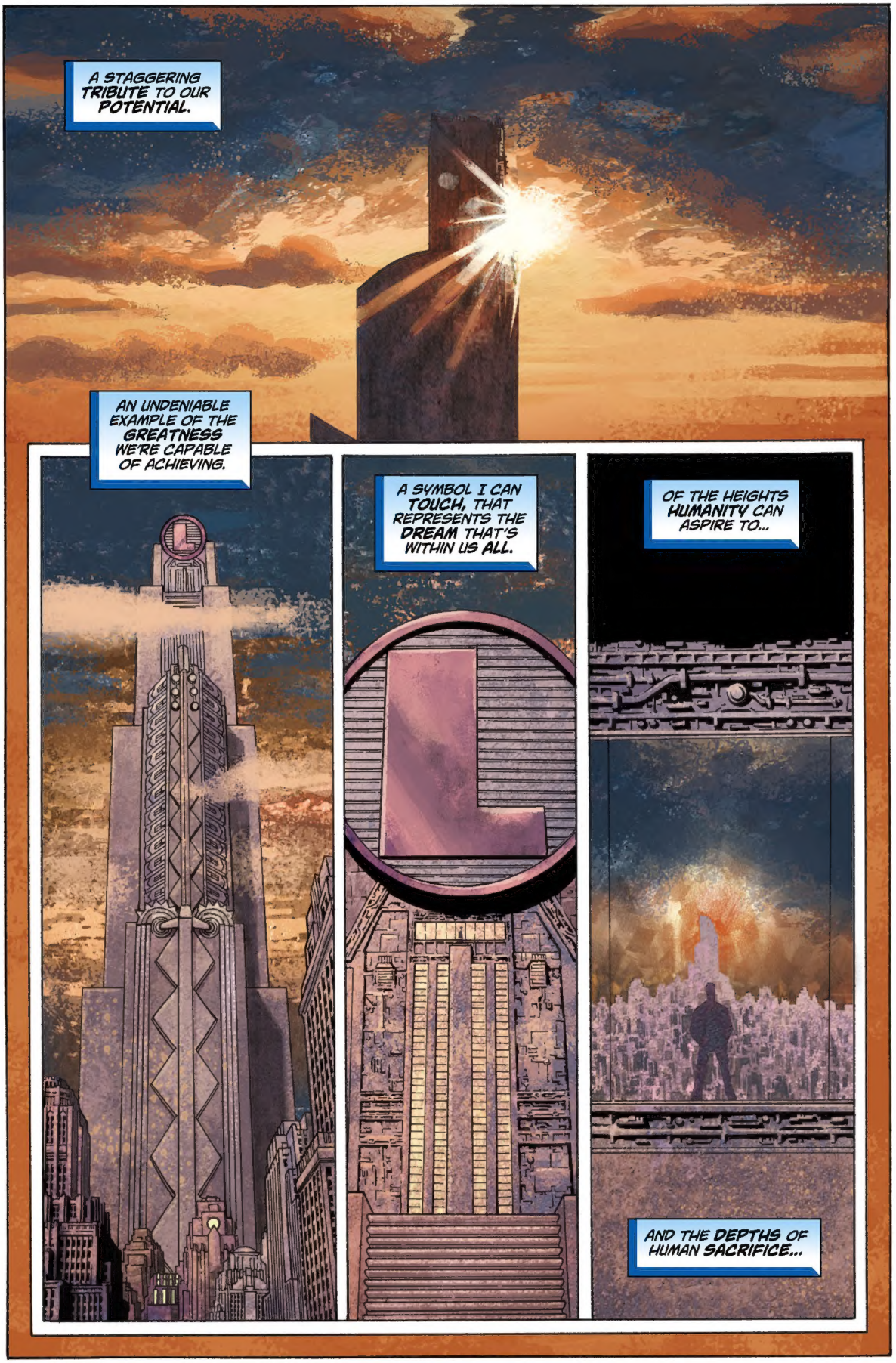
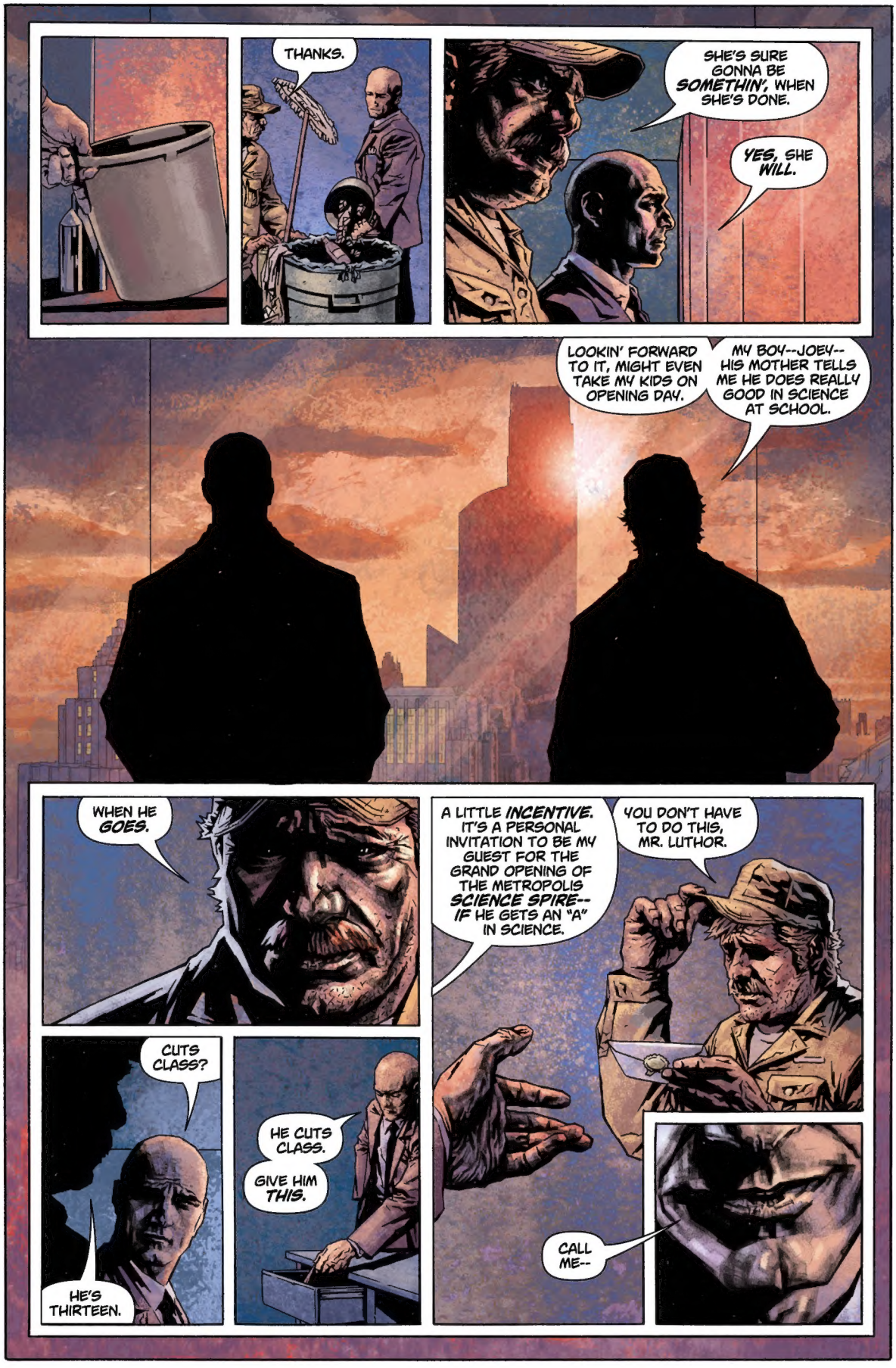

LEX LUTHOR
MAN OF STEEL
NO. 1
(OF 5)
MAY '05
BRIAN
AZZARELLO
LEE
BERMEJO
dccomics.com

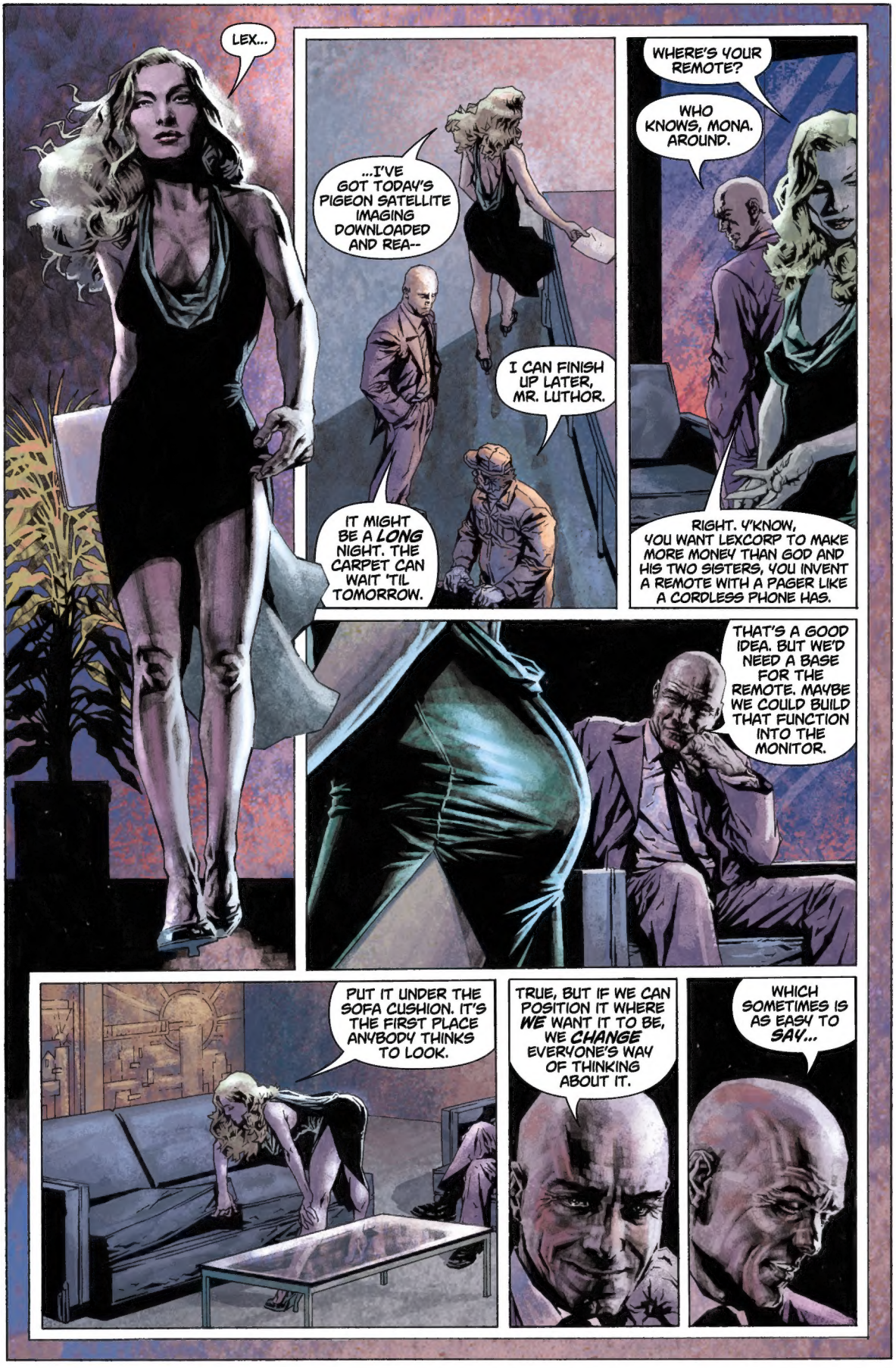
SHE WILL STAND AS A BEACON, SHINING EVEN BRIGHTER THAN THE STAR THAT IS MY METROPOLIS, LIGHTING THE WAY FOR MANKIND EVERYWHERE.
Lex Luthor:
MAN OF STEEL
BRIAN AZZARELLO - WRITER • LEE BERMEJO - ARTIST & COVER
DAVE STEWART COLORIST
ROB LEIGH LETTERER
CASEY SELJAS ASST. EDITOR
WILL DENNIS EDITOR
SUPERMAN created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

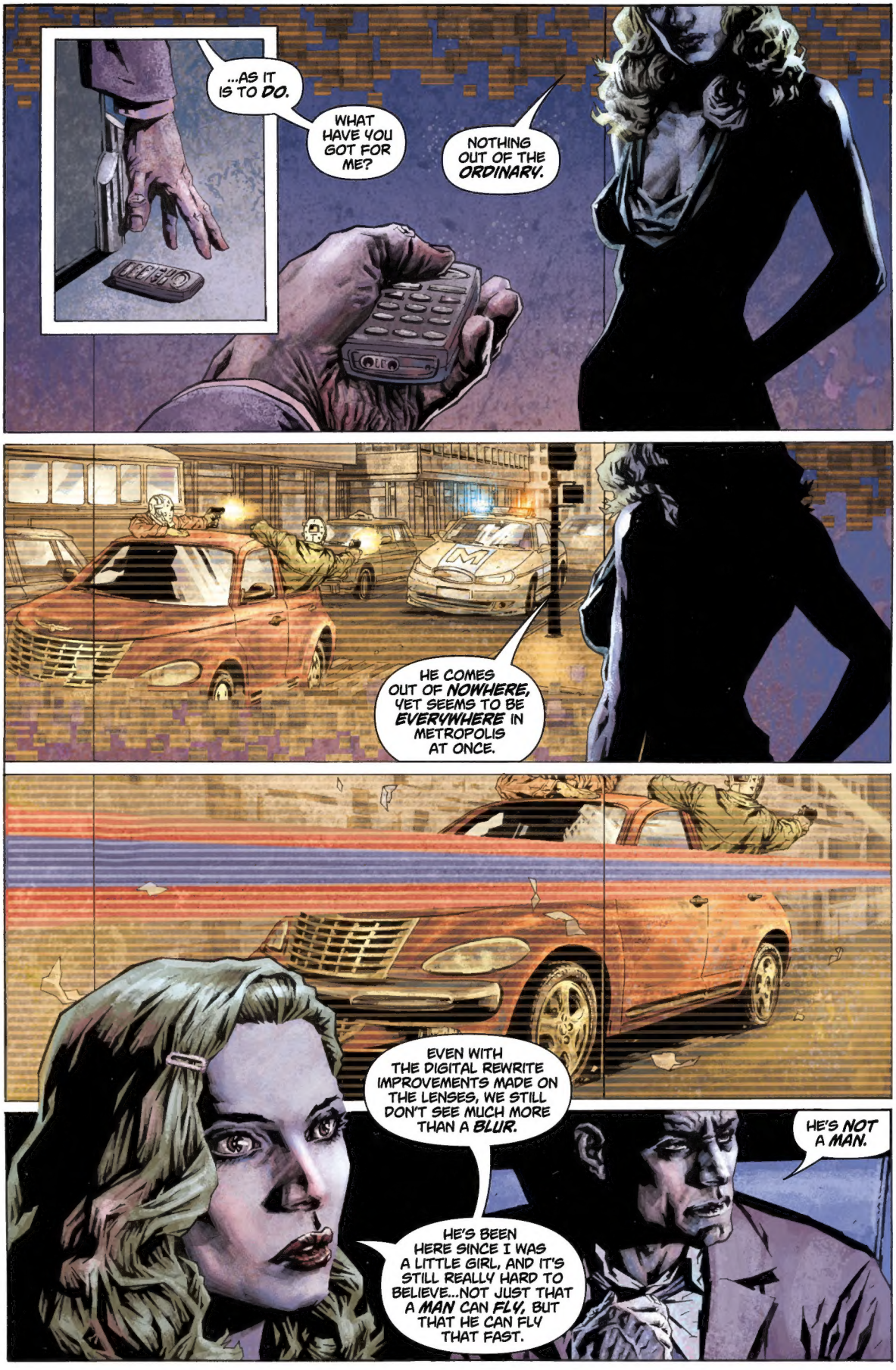

A STAGGERING TRIBUTE TO OUR POTENTIAL.
AN UNDENIABLE EXAMPLE OF THE GREATNESS WE'RE CAPABLE OF ACHIEVING.
A SYMBOL I CAN TOUCH, THAT REPRESENTS THE DREAM THAT'S WITHIN US ALL.
OF THE HEIGHTS HUMANITY CAN ASPIRE TO...
AND THE DEPTHS OF HUMAN SACRIFICE...

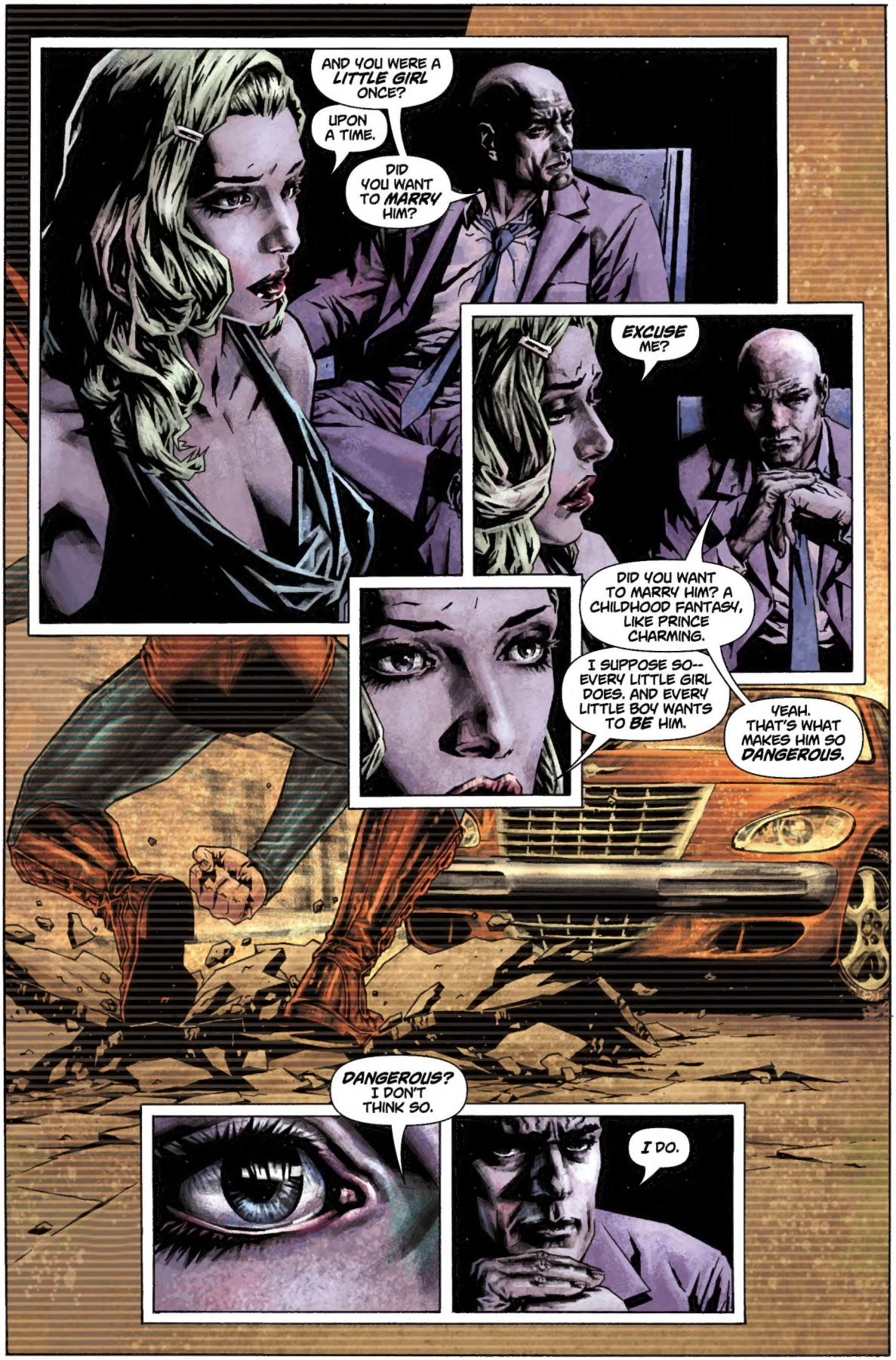
...TO BE.
HOW YOU DOIN' TONIGHT, MR. LUTHOR?
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I SAID YOU CAN CALL ME LEX, STAN?
OH...ONCE OR HUNDRED, I DON' KNOW.
IT AIN'T EASY CALLIN' YOU LEX, MR. LUTHOR.
A RESPECT THING.

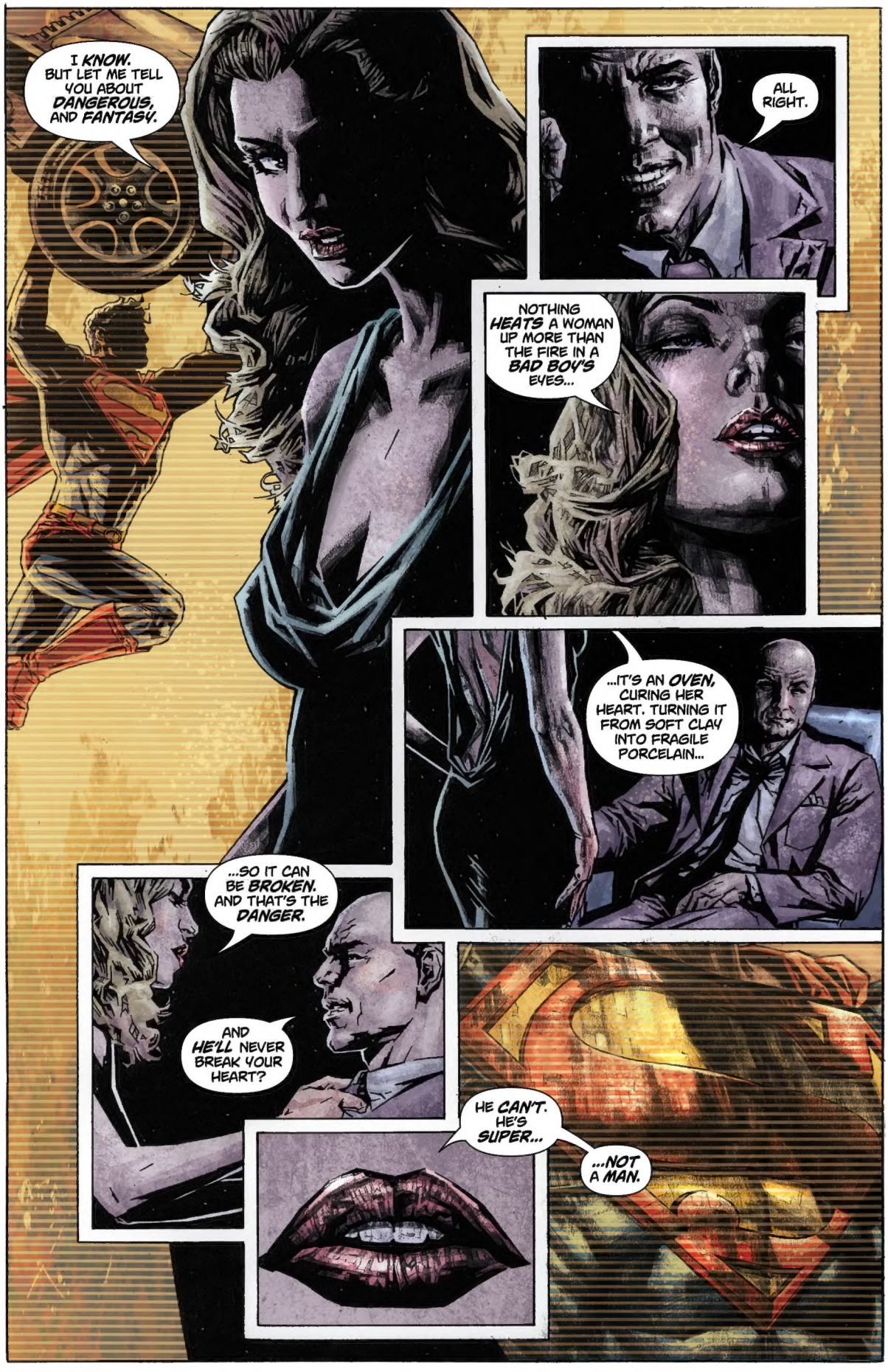
FAIR ENOUGH.
WHEN YOU GET A BILL, WHO'S IT ADDRESSED TO?
ME.
STANISLAW LEVIN.
I'M DOING VERY WELL TONIGHT, MR. LEVIN. AN' YOU?
CAN'T COMPLAIN, MR. LUTHOR.
CAN'T COMPLAIN.


THANKS.
SHE'S SURE GONNA BE SOMETHIN', WHEN SHE'S DONE.
YES, SHE WILL.
LOOKIN' FORWARD TO IT, MIGHT EVEN TAKE MY KIDS ON OPENING DAY.
MY BOY--JOEY--HIS MOTHER TELLS ME HE DOES REALLY GOOD IN SCIENCE AT SCHOOL.
WHEN HE GOES.
A LITTLE INCENTIVE. IT'S A PERSONAL INVITATION TO BE MY GUEST FOR THE GRAND OPENING OF THE METROPOLIS SCIENCE SPIRE--IF HE GETS AN "A" IN SCIENCE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS, MR. LUTHOR.
CUTS CLASS?
HE'S THIRTEEN.
HE CUTS CLASS.
GIVE HIM THIS.
CALL ME--


LEX...
...I'VE GOT TODAY'S PIGEON SATELLITE IMAGING DOWNLOADED AND REA--
I CAN FINISH UP LATER, MR. LUTHOR.
IT MIGHT BE A LONG NIGHT. THE CARPET CAN WAIT 'TIL TOMORROW.
WHERE'S YOUR REMOTE?
WHO KNOWS, MONA. AROUND.
RIGHT. Y'KNOW, YOU WANT LEXCORP TO MAKE MORE MONEY THAN GOD AND HIS TWO SISTERS, YOU INVENT A REMOTE WITH A PAGER LIKE A CORDLESS PHONE HAS.
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA. BUT WE'D NEED A BASE FOR THE REMOTE. MAYBE WE COULD BUILD THAT FUNCTION INTO THE MONITOR.
PUT IT UNDER THE SOFA CUSHION. IT'S THE FIRST PLACE ANYBODY THINKS TO LOOK.
TRUE, BUT IF WE CAN POSITION IT WHERE WE WANT IT TO BE, WE CHANGE EVERYONE'S WAY OF THINKING ABOUT IT.
WHICH SOMETIMES IS AS EASY TO SAY...


...AS IT IS TO DO.
WHAT HAVE YOU GOT FOR ME?
NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
HE COMES OUT OF NOWHERE, YET SEEMS TO BE EVERYWHERE IN METROPOLIS AT ONCE.
EVEN WITH THE DIGITAL REWRITE IMPROVEMENTS MADE ON THE LENSES, WE STILL DON'T SEE MUCH MORE THAN A BLUR.
HE'S NOT A MAN.
HE'S BEEN HERE SINCE I WAS A LITTLE GIRL, AND IT'S STILL REALLY HARD TO BELIEVE...NOT JUST THAT A MAN CAN FLY, BUT THAT HE CAN FLY THAT FAST.


AND YOU WERE A LITTLE GIRL ONCE?
UPON A TIME.
DID YOU WANT TO MARRY HIM?
EXCUSE ME?
DID YOU WANT TO MARRY HIM? A CHILDHOOD FANTASY, LIKE PRINCE CHARMING.
I SUPPOSE SO-- EVERY LITTLE GIRL DOES. AND EVERY LITTLE BOY WANTS TO BE HIM.
YEAH. THAT'S WHAT MAKES HIM SO DANGEROUS.
DANGEROUS? I DON'T THINK SO.
I DO.


I KNOW. BUT LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT DANGEROUS, AND FANTASY.
ALL RIGHT.
NOTHING HEATS A WOMAN UP MORE THAN THE FIRE IN A BAD BOY'S EYES...
...IT'S AN OVEN, CURING HER HEART. TURNING IT FROM SOFT CLAY INTO FRAGILE PORCELAIN...
...SO IT CAN BE BROKEN. AND THAT'S THE DANGER.
AND HE'LL NEVER BREAK YOUR HEART?
HE CAN'T. HE'S SUPER...
...NOT A MAN.

NO, HE ISN'T. AND YOU, BY THE WAY, YOU CERTAINLY ARE DRESSED TO CATCH ONE.
SWEET OF YOU TO NOTICE, BUT IT'S JUST A LITTLE DÉCOLLETAGE FOR STUFFED SHIRTS AND SENSIBLE SHOES.
THE VON RAUCH ACADEMY'S BENEFIT BALL IS TONIGHT.
I'M GOING TO PRESENT YOUR VERY GENEROUS ANNUAL DONATION, AND TELL THEM THAT THOUGH YOU WOULD HAVE LOVED TO BE THERE, SOME MATTERS CAME UP AND--
--Hmm. THAT'S THAT EXCLUSIVE SCHOOL, ISN'T IT?
WELL, IF YOU MEAN BY EXCLUSIVE IT HAND-PICKS ONLY TWELVE STUDENTS FOR ACCEPTANCE EACH YEAR, THEN YES, IT'S EXCLUSIVE.
I WILL, BUT NEXT SEMESTER'S CLASS HAS ALREADY BEEN SELECTED. ONE OF THOSE CHILDREN WOULD HAVE TO BE--
--A PERSONAL FAVOR, AND I WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL.
RIGHT...AN EMPLOYEE OF OURS HAS A SON WHO I THINK MERITS INCLUSION IN THAT TWELVE.
JOEY'S A BRIGHT BOY. TELL THE HEAD MASTER I'D CONSIDER IT A PERSONAL FAVOR.
HAVE A GOOD TIME, MONA. GIVE EVERYONE MY BEST.

NOT A MAN.
NOT EVEN CLOSE.
YET MOST ACCEPT HIM LIKE A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY. GROWN-UP LITTLE GIRLS AND BOYS, CERTAIN THAT THE UNCERTAIN WILL BULLY THEM, FIND COMFORT IN THEIR...
...BIG BROTHER FROM ANOTHER PLANET.
OPEN
HE'S MADE HIMSELF APPEAR SO MUCH LIKE US HE HAS ALMOST EVERYONE FORGETTING HE'S NOT ONE OF US.
ALMOST.
B-DRING B-DRING

B-DRING
B-DR-
TELL ME SOMETHING.
MR. LUTHOR? IT'S ORR.
MR. ORR. GOOD NEWS, I TRUST?
YES SIR...
...DOCTOR FEDEROV WAS KIDNAPPED LAST NIGHT BY AL HASBALLAH.
THAT'S NOT GOOD NEWS, MR. ORR.

NO, BUT YOUR INTELLIGENCE WAS SPOT ON THE PONY. WE WERE ABLE TO INTERCEPT THEM BEFORE THEY GOT THE DOCTOR OUT OF CHECHNYA.
WE? I HIRED YOU...
AN' I WASN'T ABOUT TO DO THIS ALONE. THEY'RE LOCAL--DON'T WORRY, IT WON'T COST YOU ANYTHING.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM.
PLEASE SEE THAT YOU DO. AND THE DOCTOR?
CLICK
HE'S FINE.
I'D LIKE HIM TO TELL ME THAT.

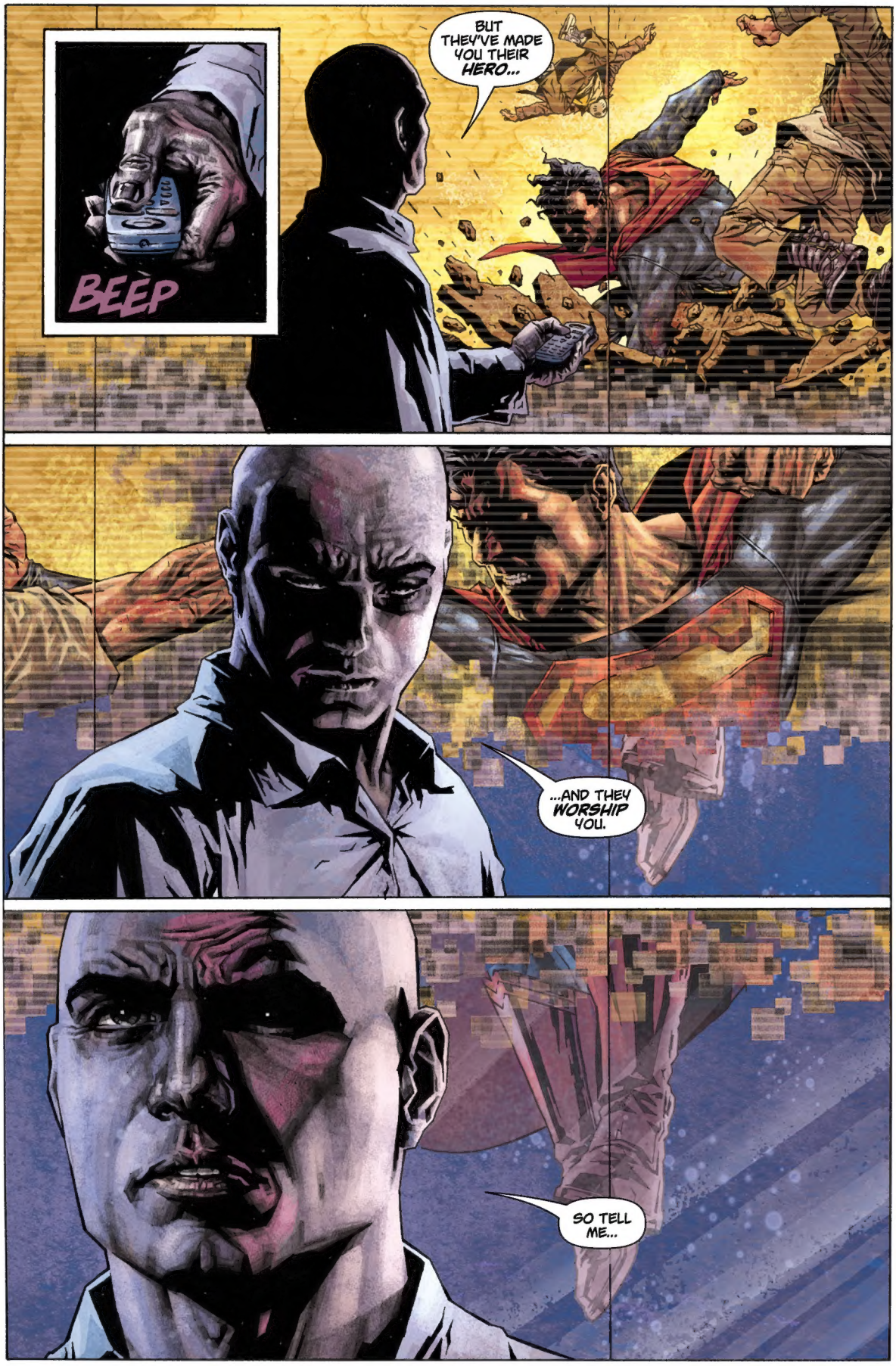
DOCTOR...
YES?
SASHA? IT'S LEX LUTHOR.
LEX? ARE YOU BEHIND THIS?
YOU CAN THANK ME LATER.
THERE'LL BE A LATER, THANKS TO YOU.
SASHA...
...I KNOW YOU SAID YOU PREFERRED TO RETIRE AND FARM, BUT DO YOU BELIEVE THAT'S AN OPTION ANYMORE?
YOUR NAME IS OUT THERE, AND DANGEROUS MEN ARE AFTER WHAT'S IN YOUR HEAD.
IT SEEMS THEY ARE MORE THAN WILLING TO BREAK IT OPEN, IF NEED BE.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M AFRAID.

DON'T BE. MR. ORR IS LIKE YOU--VERY GOOD AT HIS JOB. HE'S GOING TO TAKE YOU TO YOUR HOME.
BLAM BLAM BLAM
I CAN'T STAY THERE NOW.
THEN TELL HIM WHERE YOU WANT TO GO.
WILL I BE SAFE IN METROPOLIS?
YES. AND SO WILL YOUR FAMILY.
YOU HAVE MY WORD, SASHA.
OKAY.
LEX?
YES?
I WOULD LIKE, FOR A CHANGE, FOR MY RESEARCH TO BE USED FOR THE BETTERMENT OF MANKIND.
YOU HAVE MY WORD ON THAT AS WELL.

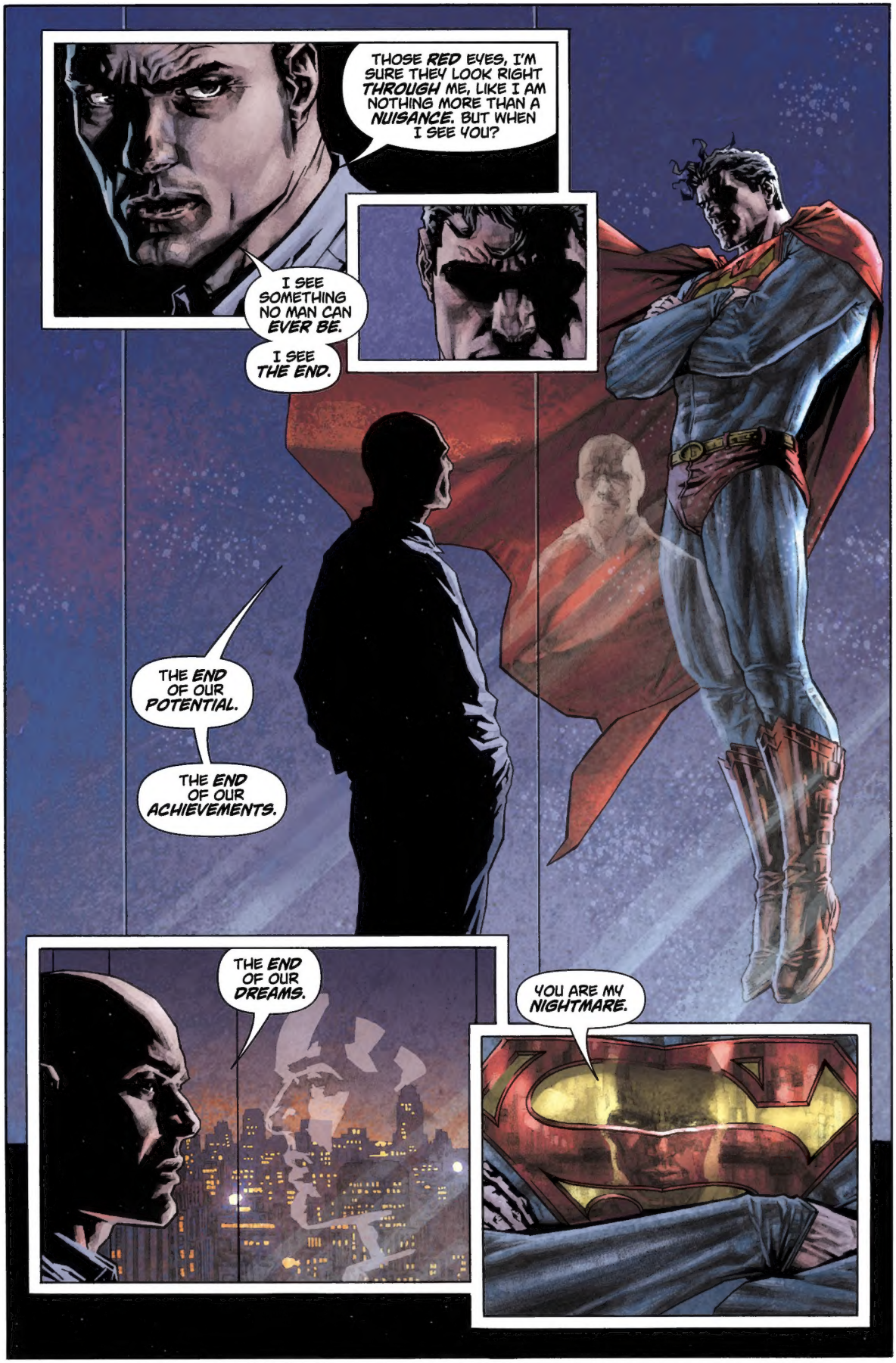
DOCTOR...
...WE'LL BE OUTTA HERE IN A COUPLE TICKS. FIRST I'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF OUR FRIENDS.
FRIENDS?
THE MEN THAT HELPED ME FREE YOU. RECOGNIZE ANY OF THEM?
COUPLE ARE FORMER KGB-- THEY KNOW YOU.
NOW THEY'RE GANGSTERS.
BAD MEN.
SURE...
...BUT GOOD GUYS.

YOU'VE BEEN REFERRED TO BY SOME AS THE WORLD'S GREATEST BOY SCOUT...
...FIGHTING FOR TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND THE AMERICAN WAY.
AS IF THAT WERE SOME INSEPARABLE, HOLY TRINITY.
TRUTH? THAT'S IN THE TELLER. JUST CALMLY MESSAGED WORDS THAT VERY WELL MAY BE NOTHING BUT CAREFULLY FINESSED LIES.
JUSTICE? BELONGS TO THE JUDGE, WHO SITS ABOVE THOSE WHO PUT HIM THERE BECAUSE THEY CAN'T TRUST THEMSELVES.
AND THE AMERICAN WAY? IT CONSTANTLY EVOLVES OUT OF SOMETHING THAT PROVES TO BE TRUE AND A LIE, JUST AND MORE...

...ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL.
ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL.
ALL MEN.
YOU ARE NOT A MAN...


BEEP
BUT THEY'VE MADE YOU THEIR HERO...
...AND THEY WORSHIP YOU.
SO TELL ME...

...WHAT REDEMPTION DO YOU OFFER THEM?


THOSE RED EYES, I'M SURE THEY LOOK RIGHT THROUGH ME, LIKE I AM NOTHING MORE THAN A NUISANCE. BUT WHEN I SEE YOU?
I SEE SOMETHING NO MAN CAN EVER BE.
I SEE THE END.
THE END OF OUR POTENTIAL.
THE END OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS.
THE END OF OUR DREAMS.
YOU ARE MY NIGHTMARE.

BUT EVEN STARING AT YOU--THE ABYSS--I AM NOT AFRAID.
TRUST ME--I'M NOT. BECAUSE WHATEVER YOU HAVE?
I HAVE MORE...
I HAVE HOPE.
continued...